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The Violence in Baton Rouge

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The Violence in Baton Rouge

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CONTENTS

Abstract	4
Introduction	5
Literature Review	6
Social Class and Economics	6
Economics and Public Services in America	8
How Unsatisfied Needs Lead to Crime	10
Research Design and Methodology	12
Quantitative Data Method, Design, & Analysis	13
Qualitative Data Method, Design, & Analysis	15
Combined Data Method Design, & Analysis	17
Site and Participants' Description and Sampling	18
Credibility of Findings	18
Limitations	18
Research Findings	19
Statistical Crime Rankings and Charts	22
Statistical Crime Results	24
Analysis of Economic Statistics	28
Statistical Economic-Crime Link Results	31
Statistics on Economic-Crime Disassociations	32
Interviewees' Perspectives on Crimes	34
Interviewees' Perspectives on Economic Issues	37
Interviewees' Perspectives on the Crime-Economic Link	41
Interviewees' Perspectives on Economic-Crime Disassociations	42
Combined Results	45
Conclusion	48
Appendix A: Interview Questions	51
Appendix B: Participant Informed Consent Form	52
Works Cited	55

Abstract

Baton Rouge, Louisiana is rich in culture yet suffers from high levels of crime and poverty. This paper explores whether the crime and economics are linked within the city. The research reviews the poverty and crime of the city through statistical data and interviews. The statistical data was taken from the 17 populated zip codes in the city. The analysis of the data took each zip code and compared their economic rates with their crime rates. The patterns found in the statistical data were then compared to the testimonies given from interviews. Each person interviewed was chosen due to their strong involvement in either alleviating the poverty or crime in the city. The analysis generated new insights into the root problems causing the high levels of crime and violence. The patterns and conclusions revealed that the majority of the economics and crime are linked. However, the research also revealed a city full of structures and systems that could also be responsible for the high levels of crime and poverty. Transformation of the structures is suggested for the alleviation of the crimes and violence in the area.

Introduction

Baton Rouge has one of the highest crime and violence rates in the nation. Baton Rouge had a higher crime rate than 96% of cities in the United States (“Crime rates for Baton Rouge, LA,” 2017). They are considered the 22nd ranked murder capitol in the United States (Comen, 2017). They currently have a 26.7 % poverty rate, which is 14 % higher than the national average (“Poverty Rate Data: Baton Rouge, Louisiana (LA),” 2014). Bernardo (2017) explains that Baton Rouge was ranked 44th in public school education in 2017. These are the statistics for the overall city; however these issues are more prevalent depending on the location within the city. There are certain areas of town that are barely ever impacted with crime or violence.

This ability to avoid crime and violence in Baton Rouge is possible, but not all people are given the same opportunities. Access to good education, good health care, safe neighborhoods, and economic opportunities are not always available for everyone in the city. Certain locations in the city have more opportunities and less crime. Allen & Gallo (2016) explain that the economics in South Baton Rouge are growing, while the economic opportunities in North Baton Rouge are dwindling. The dictation of North Baton Rouge and South Baton Rouge refer to the socio-economic divide that is drawn between north of Florida Boulevard, and south of Florida Boulevard. Florida Boulevard runs through the city, and is used to explain the economic and racial divide in the city. South Baton Rouge is considered predominantly white, economically stable, and safe; while north Baton Rouge is considered majority black, economically less stable, and more dangerous (Hardman, 2016, p.2).

Hardman (2016) explains that the conceptions of the dangers in North Baton Rouge have run out many investors, and helped divide the city While the North Baton Rouge crime rates are high, the concentration of crime is focused mainly in area codes of 70805 and 70802 (Chambers,

2016, pp.1-8). Chambers (2016) explains that a high percentage of all the murders in Baton Rouge occur in these two concentrations. He also explains that those who live in those area codes of the city with the highest crime rates are offered “little opportunity to choose an option outside of crime”(Chambers, 2016, p.1). This is the concept for my research question, I want to investigate the economic-crime link in the city of Baton Rouge. My research question is: whether there is a link between the economics and crime in the city of Baton Rouge. The research is focusing on the zip codes found only in the city of Baton Rouge, not to be confused with the greater area of Baton Rouge.

Using theories and literature, the paper will examine the economic and crime data collected. The literature review will examine several authors’ takes on related subjects. (Shortell, 2005) assessment of Weber’s Theory of Social Class will explain the connection between social class and the access to economic resources. I will then review America’s regulated free market economy to show the importance of obscuring economic stability. Using literature on the Basic Human Needs theory, I will explain how the lack of essentials found in all cities in America can lead to actions of crime and violence. The literature will establish a strong base for my research.

After the literature review the study will establish the design and methodology that will be used to conduct research. The research results will then be reviewed and analyzed using tools and theories found in the literature review. The final part of the paper will summarize the findings.

Literature Review:

Social Class and Economics

The first piece of literature reviewed Weber’s theory of social class. The theory explains that social class includes wealth, power, and prestige, and that class divisions are the most

important source of social conflict (Shortell, 2005). In Baton Rouge there are strong class divisions that can be seen through economic standing. Weber's theory helps explain how class divisions and wealth can impact social and economic opportunities. Weber's theory will help to explain and articulate the situation in Baton Rouge. Shortell (2005) explains that social class is established by command over resources, and social standing can be established through one of four separate entities including power, class, status, or party. For the purposes of this study, I will focus on power, class, and status.

Shortell (2005) states that "power is the ability to command resources in a particular domain, and economic power is the ability to control material resources" (p.1). Power in this sense can be seen as the access and ability to use and control resources. In Baton Rouge a good job and access/control over economic resources allows for more power. The more control your job position has over the command of resources, the higher your wealth and class. In this concept of social class, job position and wealth are likely to equate to each other. This is to say in America your job not only reveals your class, but your economic standing. Weber's Theory then equates an individual's economic class and standing impact to the life opportunities they will have (Shortell, 2005, pp.2-5).

Shortell (2005) explains that "Weber identified three aspects of class "(i) a specific causal component of actors life chances (ii) which rests exclusively on economic interests and wealth, and (iii) is represented under conditions of labor and commodity markets" (p.3). The breakdown is explaining that the class status and economic wealth of individuals controls the opportunities they can afford in life. Baton Rouge's private school system reveals the importance that command over resources plays in the city.

Baton Rouge ranks fourth among cities with highest private school enrollment, according to 2014 data of Trulia (Davidson, 2014, p.1). This could be telling because Louisiana public schools now rank 44st in the nation for education and 51st for safety (Bernardo, 2017, p.3). These two stats reveal that there are a high number of people sending their kids to private schools, instead of public school. While this does not mean that the people going to private school are doing it to avoid a poorly ranked public school, it does show that those with money have another option for their kids' education. This reflects the importance of wealth and interest in the city.

Another statistic that reveals the importance of wealth in the city is the price of health care. Baton Rouge is in the top ten of cities with the most expensive health care (Catalanello, 2013, p.1). If you lack wealth in Baton Rouge, then your choices for health care will be limited due to the high prices. The amount of options that people have for education and health care depends strongly on their social class and economic standing in Baton Rouge. This exemplifies Weber's theory that life choices are dependent on wealth and economic control. Shorfell (2005) explains that those without money have less option and have to accept the options they can afford. This means those in the lower class will have to use the education and health care provided by the state. Weber's theory helps explain how the command and control of resources impacts the life opportunities that individuals can access.

Weber's theory helps reveal how social class and economics in Baton Rouge can impact the opportunities that individuals can afford. The health care and education of the city showed the reliance that some individuals have on the public services of their government. The next section will review the functionality and effectiveness of public services in the USA.

Economics and Public Services in America

The literatures in the section establish the theory that the public services in America are not enough to keep people out of extreme poverty. Baton Rouge being a section of America would not be an exception to this argument. Radcliffe (2003) explains how capitalism is based on private ownership and private investing. In a truly free market “the private investors are completely unrestrained in determining where to invest, what to produce or sell, and at which prices to exchange goods and services, operating without check or controls” (Radcliffe, 2003, p.1). This means that someone with money can choose exactly where and how their money is spent. According to Radcliff (2003), the higher the wealth the more access the individual will have to any lifestyle they choose, and individual with less wealth will have less access to the things they want or need.

In situations of extreme poverty, the ability to access certain basic human needs would be very limited in a completely free market economy. Extreme poverty is defined as “a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information” (United Nations, 1995, p.41). America is not completely a free market economy as it includes certain government regulation on business and industry, along with government taxes to provide certain social services to the public (Radcliffe, 2003, p.2). The American public system provides assistance including social security, public schooling up until college, food stamps, a postal system, Medicare for the elderly, road maintenance, and other very useful programs (“The Federal Civil Service,” 2009). While publicly funded services are provided in America, they do not encompass all the services necessary to satisfy the needs of all citizens. An example of this would be state access to health care. If the public health care struggles to satisfy their patients’ needs, then the patients are left not fully cared for. This is concerning, because Louisiana ranks as the worst quality of healthcare

in the United States by WalletHub in 2017(Welsh, 2017, p.3). The insufficiency of public services can impede on the life of its citizens. Edelman (2012) also explains how the American public systems do not keep everyone above the poverty line.

While there are many structures in place to help the American public, there are still a high number of people below the poverty line (Edleman, 2012, pp. 1-4). Merriem-Webster defines the poverty line as “the level of income that makes it possible for a person to pay for basic food, clothing, and shelter”(“Poverty line,” 2018). Edelman’s (2012) article explains that even with the strong number of public services that are working to help keep Americans out of poverty, some 20.5 million make an income less than half the poverty line. Those in this poverty bracket “have found it extremely difficult to support a family” (Edelman, 2012, p.3). He explains that “we have a huge hole in our safety net in many states, TANF and food stamps combined don’t even get people to half of the poverty line, and a substantial majority of poor families don’t receive TANF at all”(Edelman, 2012, p.2). According to Edelman (2012), the American public system helps some 40 million people from falling into poverty, however there still are giant gaps that millions fall through leaving them below the poverty line, leaving them with the struggle to support the needs of themselves and their loved ones. Baton Rouge and Louisiana are not exceptions to this phenomenon. Louisiana has low rating in both public education and quality of health care(Samelian, 2016, p.2). These types of infrastructure limitations leave many in Baton Rouge below the poverty line and lacking certain essentials. The next section reviews the impact that unsatisfied needs can have on crime.

How Unsatisfied Needs Lead to Crime

The pieces of literature in this section review the Basic Human Needs (BHN) theory, and how it relates to Baton Rouge. The BHN theory explains how someone with unsatisfied needs

could turn to violence and crime. The theory explains that there are certain essentials in human life, which cause frustration when they are unattained; and this frustration leads to aggressive behavior (Arai, 2016, p.53). These aggressive behaviors could be anything from picking arguments with loved ones to murder, and in the middle is a long list of crimes. This theory might be able to explain why Baton Rouge is more dangerous than 96% of all cities in America (“Crime rates for Baton Rouge, LA,” 2017). According to the BHN theory these activities could be attributed to a lack of individuals obtaining the essentials.

The next issue is discovering what needs are being neglected that are causing the aggressive behaviors. Sackett (2016) explains that a “neighborhoods incidence of violent crime is related to an array of intertwined characteristics; including poverty, segregation, and inequality, and these characteristics can be both the cause and result of violent crime” (p.3). Sackett’s (2016) article reviews the multiple causes of violent neighborhoods, and explains that the localization of crime can come from a wide array of factors. The ability to identify the causes of conflict is essential for ending the issues.

Examining Arai’s (2016) breakdown of Johan Galtung’s BHN thesis will explain how to identify the basic human needs within each situation. The four categories are security, welfare, identity, and freedom. For the purpose of my study, I will focus on the category of overall welfare, “which is realized by establishing access to food, water, shelter, air, and other material resources and conditions to sustain human lives”(Arai, 2016, p.51). As discussed earlier, in an American society these goods can be obtained through economic well-being, governmental social programs, or a combination of both. According to the BHN theory, if an individual cannot obscure their essentials through legal means, then they will turn to aggressive behaviors to obtain them, such as crime. Many crimes such as stealing, selling drugs, gun trade, and prostitution

allow people to make money and satisfy their needs outside of the state system. These activities give economic opportunity to individuals that struggle to find other legal ways to accrue money.

Hardman (2016) explains that the 70805 area code in Baton Rouge is home to higher violence rates, crime rates, and lower opportunities economically. Wicker explained “that one neighborhood is struggling so much, that she couldn’t even convince a Dollar Store to open and provide some local jobs”(Hardman, 2016,p.6). These two instances exemplify certain lacking economic opportunities in Baton Rouge that could be impacting the high levels of crime in the city. Based on the BHN theory the lack of need satisfaction in Baton Rouge may be leading to the high levels of crime. Understanding this allows the entirety of the literature review to be connected.

Weber’s theory on social class explained how social class and economic status will determine the opportunities an individual can access, Radcliff explained that those in the lowest social class will still have access to the public systems provided by the state. Edelman (2012) explained that the public systems in America are not enough to satisfy all the needs of the lowest class. The BHN theory explains how the unsatisfied needs can lead to conflict and crime. Using this information the study will design and execute research to investigate whether the economics and the crime in Baton Rouge are linked.

Research Design and Methodology

The research design and methodology were established to discover whether there is a crime and economic link in the city of Baton Rouge. The design established both a statistical analysis process and an interview process to discover and contextualize the economics and crime in the city.

The quantitative part of this study used the method of correlation research, which takes “2 or more quantitative variables from the same group of participants to determine if there is a relationship or covariation” (Waters, 2017, p.1). The qualitative research was done using the method of face to face interviews. The two sets of data were collected using the convergent design. The convergent design;

involves collecting both types of data at roughly the same time; assessing information using parallel constructs for both types of data; separately analyzing both types of data; and comparing results through procedures such as a side-by-side comparison in a discussion, transforming the qualitative data set into quantitative scores, or jointly displaying both forms of data (Wisdom, 2013, p.2).

The combination of data was analyzed to explore if there is an economic-crime link in the city of Baton Rouge. The details of the each step of collecting, combining and analyzing the data will be reviewed in the following sections.

Quantitative Data Method, Design, & Analysis

The quantitative data was collected from the US census Bureau and Sperling’s Best Places to Live. Sperling’s Best takes its crime data from “the Uniform Crime Reports National Climatic Data Center” (“Sperling’s Best Places - Data Sources,” 2018). The data that was collected are the crime rates and economic rates in the city of Baton Rouge. The crime rates and economic rates were both taken from the same zip codes within the city. Each zip code’s crime rates and economic rates were placed side by side to determine a relationship or covariation between the two statistics. These relationship and covariations were then recorded and organized. The organization of information was based on one of the four categories:

1. Statistical Crime Results.

2. Statistical Economics Results
3. Statistical Economic-Crime Link Results
4. Statistical Economic-Crime Dissociations Results

Neale (2016) explains that categorization allow researchers to relate patterns to the broader body of knowledge. These categories will allow the research to relate the patterns found in the statistics to the patterns found within the quantitative data.

The research looked at the crime statistics in Baton Rouge independently by the zip codes. The category listed all of the zip-codes located in the city of Baton Rouge and the US average based on their crime ratings. This data gives a range from 1-100 with 1 being no crime and 100 being the most possible crime in that specific area(“Crime Rates: Methodology and Data Sources,” 2018).

The crime data collected was separated into two categories; violent crime rating and property crime rating. The research reviewed the different rankings of each zip code based on both their violent crime rating and their property crime rating.

The second category reviewed the economics of each zip code. There were four economic categories that each zip code was broken up into; unemployment rate, percentage of families below the poverty rate, percentage of individuals below the poverty rate, and the mean income per household. Each different category was used to compare the different zip codes in Baton Rouge. Those comparisons were also viewed next to the US national averages in each category. All economic data was taken from the US Census Bureau.

The third category compared the economic data and crime data of each zip code. This was done by comparing the results of the first two categories side by side. This allowed for an analysis into the possible patterns between the economic statistics and crime statistics of each zip

code. Similar patterns found were grouped together to discover common patterns throughout the data.

The fourth and last category examined any data that revealed exclusivity between the economic statistics and crime ratings within each zip code. This was done by examining the crime data and the economic data that did not show any patterns or connections after being compared. All non-patterned data was isolated and investigated.

Qualitative Data Method, Design, & Analysis

I conducted face to face interviews to collect qualitative data. A qualitative research interview is "an interview, whose purpose is to gather descriptions of the life-world of the interviewee with respect to interpretation of the meaning of the described phenomena"(Kvale, 1983, p.174). This means that research was conducted through words and interpretations of life events, instead of numbers and quantitative data. Qualitative research allows for knowledgeable community members to express their views of the economics and crime.

The research was done using semi-structured interviews. Semi-structured interviews "consist of several key questions that help to define the areas to be explored, but also allows the interviewer or interviewee to diverge in order to pursue an idea or response in more detail"(Gill, Stewart, Treasure, & Chadwick, 2008, p.291). This style of interview allowed for elaboration and a deeper insight into the subject at hand. They explain that this approach allows for the flexibility of inquiring upon subjects that were not previously thought of (Gill et al., 2008, p.291). It also gives the researcher the ability to learn more about details connected to the inquiry. This style was chosen due to its flexibility.

The inquiry was done using the face to face style of interviewing. While they require a synchronization of time and place, this practice allows for the ability to read social cues

(Opdenakker, 2006), p. 392). In face to face interviews gauging emotions and reaction time, gives the researcher more information on the topic and allows for genuine follow-up questions (Opdenakker, 2006, p.393). The face to face interview also permits the use of taking notes and voice recording the events. The combination of these two practices enables the researcher to exercise flexibility in collecting information, and stay on the topics of the semi-structured format (Opdenakker, 2006, pp. 392-394).

In order to use parallel constructs for the convergent design, the interview questions were based on the same four categories as the statistical data collected. The four categories were:

1. Interviewees' Perspectives on Crimes
2. Interviewees' Perspectives on Economic Issues
3. Interviewees' Perspectives on the Crime-Economic Link
4. Interviewees' Perspectives on Economic-Crime Disassociations

The questions were as follows:

- What is at the heart of the high crime rates in the city?
- What areas in the city are most impacted by crime, and how?
- What are the root problems causing our high poverty rates?
 - If there are multiple please explain how each one independently is affecting the poverty rates.
- What areas in the city are most impacted by poverty, and how are they impacted?
- Is there an economic-crime link in the city?
 - Explain their connection using Baton Rouge's current context.
- What areas in the city are impacted by both the poverty and by crime, and how is that impact seen?

The first two questions focused on the first category of crime. The questions were “What is at the heart of the high crime rates in the city?”, and “What areas in the city are most impacted by crime and how?” These questions allowed for a collection of qualitative data that could be

easily compared and analyzed with the statistical data, which assessed the crime rates by zip code.

The third and fourth questions were used to assess the second category of poverty. The two poverty based questions were “What are the root problems causing the cities high poverty rates?”, and “What areas in the city are most impacted by poverty, and how are they impacted?” These two questions allowed for a collection of qualitative data that could be easily compared and analyzed with the statistical data, which assessed the poverty rates by zip-code.

The fifth and sixth questions were used to assess the possible crime-economic link in the city. The two questions were “Is there an economic-crime link in the city, explain?”, and “What areas in the city are impacted by both poverty and crime, and how is that impact seen?” These two questions allowed for the qualitative data to be compared to the third category of the statistical data, which focused on the statistical patterns that connected the crime and poverty rates in the city.

There were no questions that were directly used to assess the fourth category of the statistical data, which focused on the data that did not connect the link the crime and economics. Instead, this information became apparent by examining the interview results as a whole.

Combined Data Method, Design, & Analysis

Once the data collection was completed the two sets of data were combined using the convergent design. The four categories were used as the parallel constructs for the interview data and statistical data. Their results were compared using side by side comparison in a discussion format. The discussion reviewed the results together examining whether there is a link between economics and crime. The entirety of information was assessed and analyzed to conclude the research.

The design was established to collect, combine, and analyze Baton Rouge data. The participants were carefully selected based on their knowledge and experience in the economic and crime fields of Baton Rouge.

Site and Participants: Description and Sampling

The four participants selected had working histories in fields that deal with the economics and/or crime in Baton Rouge. They all had at least 3 years working as someone designing, implementing, or studying (at a PhD or Master's level) the strategies used in the area. The purpose of the study was to explore whether there is an economic-crime link in the city. Invoking the opinions of those who specialize in economics and crime helped articulate the context behind the rates of the city. The interviews were semi-structured and lasted 40 minutes on average. Using individuals with working knowledge of the fields helped to bring credibility to their interviews.

Credibility of Findings

The use of a mixed method of inquiry allowed the statistics to be grounded in the context found in the interviews. They also enabled the interviews to give possible explanations for any anomalies found in the statistical data. The two different methods of collection helped to cross check each other, and elaborate on the findings found within both. This helped to overcome the time limitations and scope of the study.

Limitations

The research design was useful in collecting the appropriate data, but had its limitations. The scope of the qualitative data collection was so small that there may need to be further data to produce the most consistent data. The accuracy of the qualitative data was dependent upon the

accuracy of the accounts given by the interviewees, and the information that the interviewee knows. Memories and stories can change over time, making perfect accuracy difficult to obtain. Personal stories and opinions were the focus of the interviews to mitigate third story events that are harder to verify.

The cultural difference in Baton Rouge also posed a problem with certain language differences. We have many colloquialisms and language subtleties depending on background. The ability to understand and reveal the message of each person took care and caution. During the interviews I would ask participants to repeat and explain themselves, when language became unfamiliar. The research was also done in a small amount of time, which limited the amount of time to review the information. The information was reviewed shortly after collection to insure extra time for review. Even with these limitations, the research findings were rich and beneficial.

Research Findings

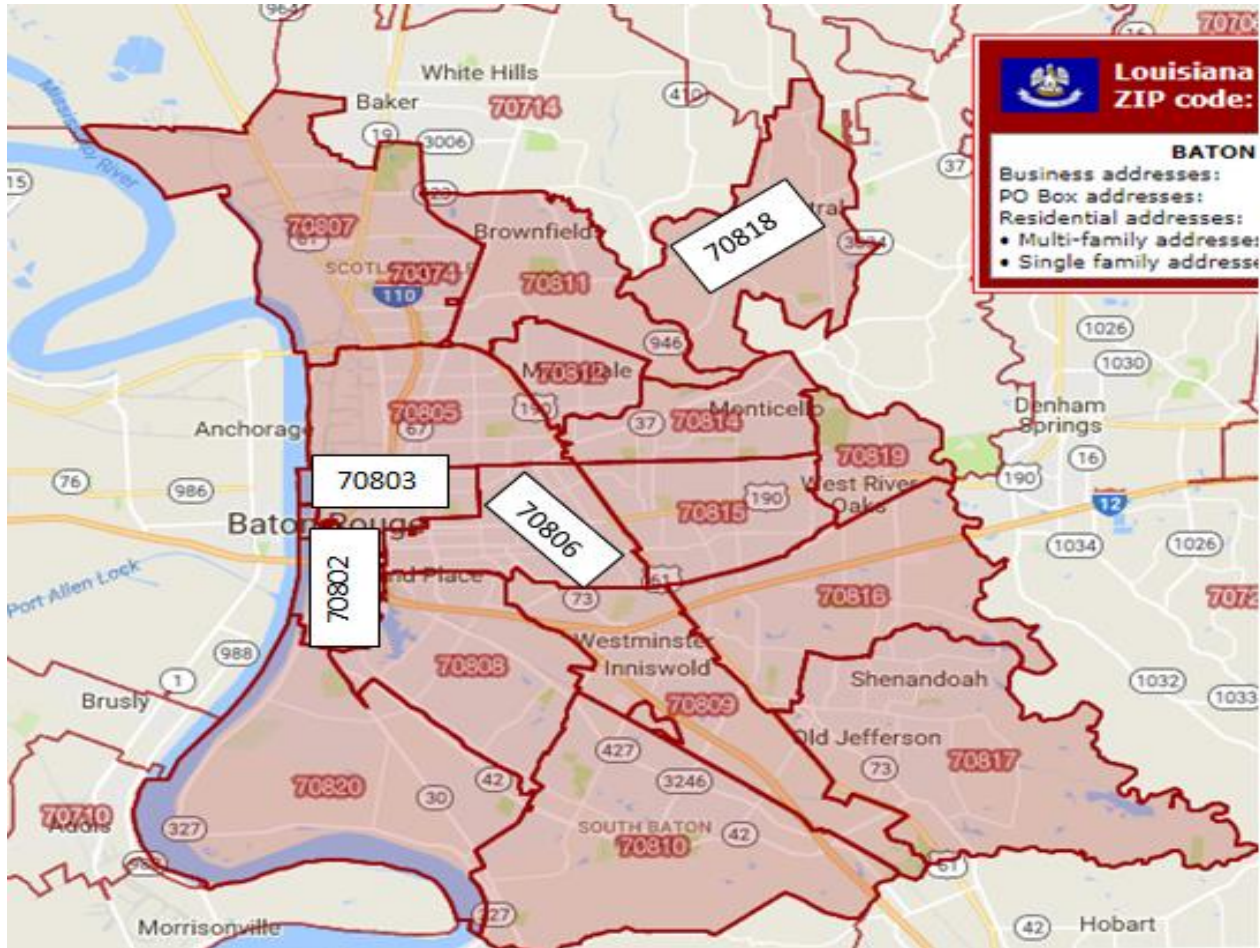
The design implemented into the research allowed for the two sets of information to be collected and reviewed separately; and then analyzed together in order to come to a unified conclusion. They were both analyzed using the same 4 categories. The different zip codes were used to parallel the interviews and the statistical data. The four categories were (1) the crime in Baton Rouge, (2) the economics in Baton Rouge, (3) the connections between the crime and poverty in Baton Rouge, and (4) the dissociation between the crime and poverty data.

In the following sections zip codes will be used heavily to explain the different areas economic and crime statistics. This can be difficult to follow without understanding the area. The zip codes found below are the 17 populated zip codes found within East Baton Rouge parish within the city of Baton Rouge. The zip codes are not organized by numerical order within the

city. Recognizing which zip codes are located next to each other and where they are found on the map gives a better understanding of the city. Located on the far west of the map are the zip codes of 70802, 70803, 70805, 70807, and 70820. On the far east of the map are the zip codes 70817, 70818, 70816, and 70819. The rest of the zip codes are found within the middle of the map.

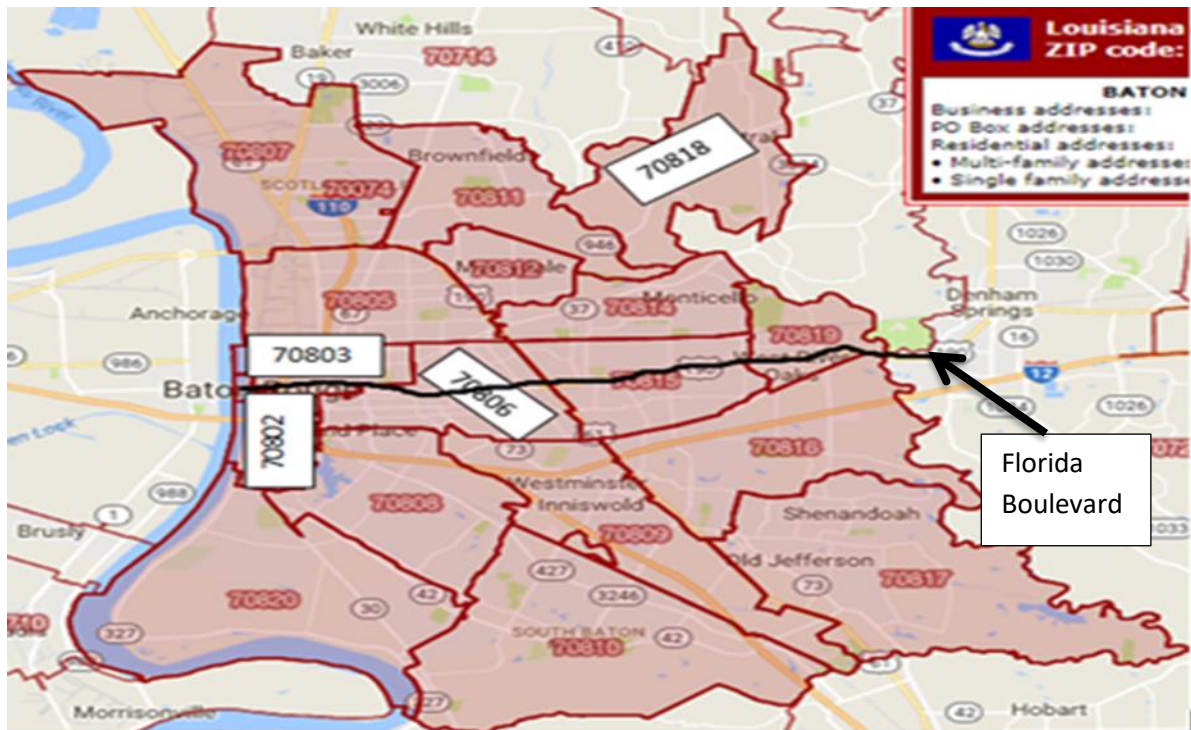
Another distinction to make is the North Baton Rouge and South Baton Rouge divide that was alluded to in the introduction and literature review. North Baton Rouge is considered anything north of Florida Boulevard or US 190, and South Baton Rouge is considered anything below it. Some zip codes are divided by Florida boulevard making part of their zip code in North Baton Rouge and other parts in South Baton Rouge. The only zip code that does not apply to this is 70818 or Central, it is not considered part of North Baton Rouge. All 17 zip codes can be found on the maps below taken from the LA Home Town Locater website (“Baton Rouge, Louisiana (LA) ZIP Code Map,” 2018). The first map dictates the 17 zip codes highlighted in red, and the second shows the line where Florida divides North and South Baton Rouge.

Map 1



Map taken from Louisiana Home Town Locater

Map 2



Map taken from Louisiana Home Town Locater

Statistical Crime Rankings and Charts

All statistical crime ratings were taken from Sperling's Best Places to Live data base ("Crime Rates: Methodology and Data Sources," 2018). According to Sperling's Best Places their crime rate is defined "as the number of crimes per unit of population ("Crime Rates: Methodology and Data Sources," 2018). They used the rate of crimes per 100,000 populations to create their ranking. Their crime ranking establishes that one crime occurring in a population of 100,000 would be equal to a ranking of 1, and 100 crimes would give it the highest ranking of 100. This is a ratio of 1:1000 to get the overall ranking of each zip code.

The United States of America's average violent crime scaled rating was 31.1 and their average property crime rating was 38.1 ("National Average: Crime Ranking," 2018). This would mean that per 100,000 people there were 31.1 violent crimes committed, and 38.1 instances of

property crime. The following Baton Rouge rankings follow the same pattern; the rankings are based on the amount of crimes committed per 100,000 people.

FIGURE (2&3): Crime Ratings by Zip Code

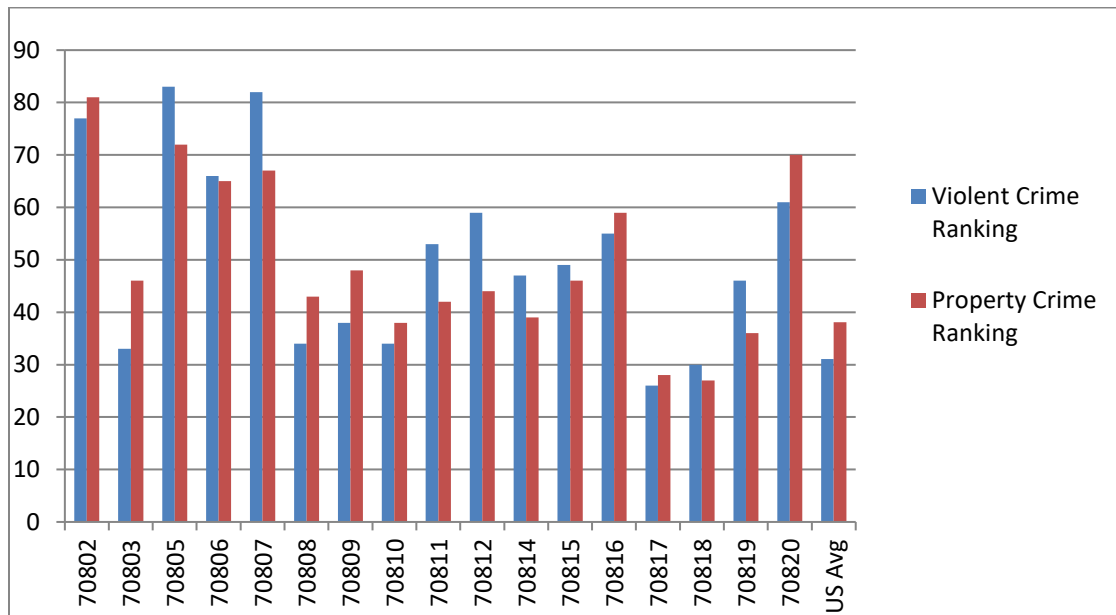
Zip Code	Property Crime
70802	81
70805	72
70820	70
70807	67
70806	65
70816	59
70809	48
70815	46
70803	46
70812	44
70808	43
70811	42
70814	39
US Avg	38.1
70810	38
70819	36
70817	28
70818	27

Data from Sterling's Best 2

Zip Code	Violent Crime
70805	83
70807	82
70802	77
70806	66
70820	61
70812	59
70816	55
70811	53
70815	49
70814	47
70819	46
70809	38
70808	34
70810	34
70803	33
US Avg	31.1
70818	30
70817	26

Data from Sterling's Best

Figure 3: Crime Ratings by Zip Code



2016 Sperling’s Best Places Data

Statistical Crime Results

In Baton Rouge there are five zip codes that have the highest levels of violent crime and property crime per population. These zip codes are all located on the western most part of the city of Baton Rouge and are lined up together. The zip codes are 70807, 70805, 70802, 70820, and 70806. All information pertaining to population and locations of zip codes comes from Zip-code.com and their data base(“ZIP Codes BR La Map,” 2017).70807is considered Scotlandville and is located in the North West corner of the map, and it is a majority black neighborhood that is home to the historically black college of Southern University. 70805 is located in North Baton Rouge between 70807 and 70802, and is a majority black neighborhood. 70802 has a majority black population and is located both North and South of Florida boulevard. 70802 is also home to the downtown area of Baton Rouge, it is located south 70805, and it surrounds the 70803 area code. The 70806 zip code has a majority black population, is located below 70805, east of

70802, and it also is cut in half by Florida Boulevard. 70820 has a majority white population is located south of 70802, and is on the far south west corner of the map.

These five zip codes are all located on the western most part of the city of Baton Rouge, and all but the 70820 zip code fall within North Baton Rouge. These areas are the most violent and crime infested in the city. The rankings come from the number of crimes committed from (1-100) per a population of 100,000. The number of violent crimes and property crimes that occur in these areas were substantially higher than the national average in both categories; which means their ratio of crime to population are substantially higher than the national average.

There were only two zip codes that had a violent crime ranking and property crime ranking below the national average were 70817 (26) and 70818 (30). These two zip codes are located on the eastern edges of the city of Baton Rouge, and neither is considered part of North Baton Rouge. 70818 is considered Central and not part of North Baton Rouge, and has a majority white populations. 70817 had a majority white population located in South Baton Rouge, and is considered the Shenandoah area.

Another area with low levels of violent crime and property crime was the 70810 zip code. This zip code is a majority white population located in South Baton Rouge on the bottom of the map. The majority of the zip codes that had high levels of crime were located on the western part of the city and had a majority black population. The majority of zip codes with low levels of crime were located toward on the eastern part of the city and had a majority white population.

Figure 4: 2016 US Census Bureau Data 1

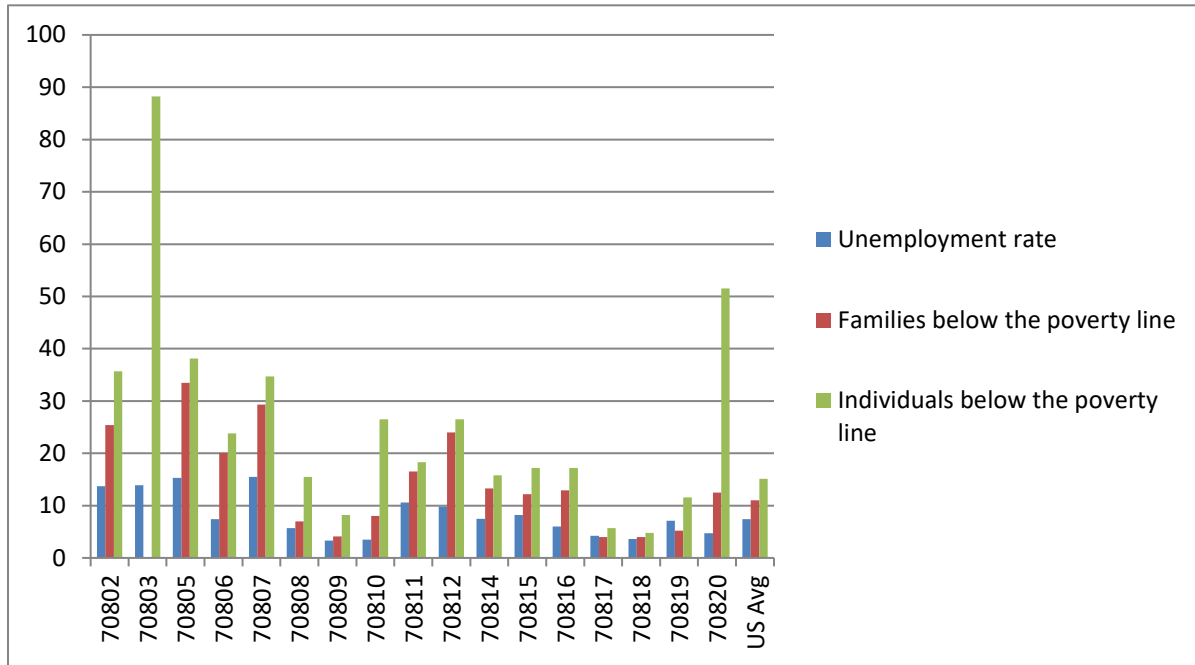


FIGURE 5: 2016 US Census Bureau Data 1

Zip Code	Unemployment rate %	Families below the poverty line %	Individuals below the poverty line %
70802	13.7	25.4	35.7
70803	13.9	Not applicable	88.21
70805	15.3	33.5	38.1
70806	7.4	20.1	23.8
70807	15.5	29.3	34.7
70808	5.7	7	15.5
70809	3.3	4.1	8.2
70810	3.5	8	26.5
70811	10.6	16.5	18.3
70812	9.8	24	26.5
70814	7.5	13.3	15.8
70815	8.2	12.2	17.2
70816	6	12.9	17.2
70817	4.2	4	5.7
70818	3.6	4	4.8
70819	7.1	5.2	11.6
70820	4.7	12.5	51.5
US Avg	7.4	11	15.1

FIGURE 6: 2016 US Census Bureau Data 2

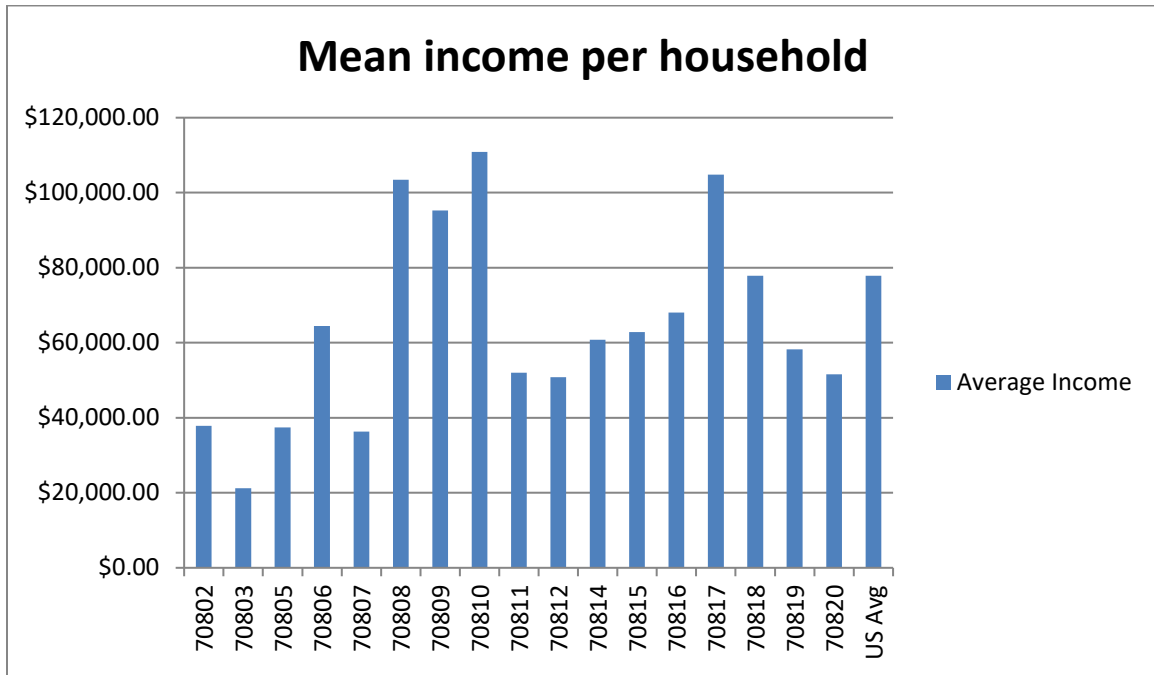


FIGURE 7: 2016 US Census Bureau Data 4

Zip Code	Mean income per household
70803	\$21,194
70807	\$36,306
70805	\$37,393
70802	\$37,823
70812	\$50,806
70820	\$51,583
70811	\$51,990
70819	\$58,197
70814	\$60,808
70815	\$62,870
70806	\$64,488
70816	\$68,006
US Avg	\$77,866
70818	\$77,888
70809	\$95,236
70808	\$103,486
70817	\$104,841
70810	\$110,858

Analysis of Economic Statistics

All economic statistics were taken from the American Fact finder provided by the US Census Bureau(Bureau, 2017). These economic statistics were all chosen to exemplify important economic statistics in each zip code. Figure 4 and 5 show the percentage rates of each zip code in the categories of unemployment rate, families below the poverty line, and individuals below the poverty line. Figure 4 is a bar graph depicting their rates and figure 5 is the actual values presented in the bar graph. The poverty line is defined as “the level of income that makes it possible for a person to pay for basic food, clothing, and shelter”(“Poverty line,” 2018). Figure 6 and 7 depict the mean income per household within each zip code. The US national unemployment percentage rate in 2016 was 7.4%(Bureau, 2017).

In the city of Baton Rouge more than half of the zip codes researched had a lower unemployment rate than the national average. Gupta (2016) explains that higher levels of unemployment can lead to higher levels of property crime. The high levels of unemployment and crime in Baton Rouge could be connected according to Gupta.

The zip codes with the lowest unemployment were 70809, 70810, 70818, 70817, and 70820. All five of these zip codes are located outside of North Baton Rouge, and all but 70818 are located within South Baton Rouge. This matches Hardman’s (2016) explanation that North Baton Rouge’s economics are struggling, while South Baton Rouge’s economics are thriving. The top five zip codes with the highest unemployment percentage were 70807, 70805, 70803, 70802, and 70811. All five of these zip codes are located within North Baton Rouge except 70803.

The next two economic statistics reviewed were the percentage of families and individuals below the poverty line. (Edelman, 2012) explains that being in poverty in America can leave many families without the proper care necessary for a healthy life. He articulated that the reliance on public services is not sufficient for upending people out of extreme poverty (Edelman, 2012, p.4). The United Nations (1995) defined extreme poverty as “a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information” (p.41). A high level of people below the poverty line could be an indication of high levels of needs being unmet.

The 2016 US national average of families below the poverty line is 11% (Bureau, 2017). The 2016 national average of the percent of individuals below the poverty line is 15.1% (Bureau, 2017). The top five zip codes with the lowest percentages of families below the poverty line from lowest to highest were 70818, 70817, 70809, 70819, and 70808. The 70808 zip code that has yet to be mentioned, it is located in South Baton Rouge in the western portion of the city, and has a majority white population. 70819 is the only zip code considered to be part of North Baton Rouge. These same five zip codes also have the lowest number of individuals below the poverty line.

The top five zip codes with the highest percentages of families below the poverty line listed from highest to lowest are 70805, 70807, 70802, 70812, and 70806. The zip codes with highest percentages in this category are doing drastically worse than the national average. Every zip code mentioned lies within North Baton Rouge. Areas underneath the poverty line are more likely to be experiencing adverse impacts on their ability to obtain their basic human needs (Edelman, 2012, p.4).

The 2016 national average of the percent of individuals below the poverty line is 15.1% (Bureau, 2017). The top five zip codes with the highest percentage of people below the poverty line are 70802, 70805, 70807, 70820, and 70803. All five of these zip codes had percentages higher than the national average. All five zip codes are located on the western boarder of the city of Baton Rouge.

The last economic statistic reviewed was the mean income per household. This is the annual amount of money that a household receives from either working or receiving outside funding. This reveals the amount of money that a household has access to. Radcliffe (2003) explains that access to wealth allows for more lifestyle and living opportunities.

The national mean income per household is \$77,866 annually. Out of the zip codes researched only the top five in the city were above the national average. The top five zip codes with the highest average income are 70810 (\$110,858), 70817 (\$104, 841), 70808 (\$103, 496), 70809 (\$95, 236), and 70818 (\$77, 888). The four zip codes with highest average income are all located in South Baton Rouge, and none of the five are considered part of North Baton Rouge.

The top five zip codes with the lowest average income are 70803 (\$21,194), 70807 (\$36,306), 70805 (\$37, 393), 70802 (\$37, 823), and 70812 (\$50,806). The top four with the lowest mean income per household were less than half that of the national average. The top four are also all located on the western most portion of the city. There were also two other zip codes whose mean income per household was less than \$55,000 a year. These zip codes were 70820(\$51,583) and 70811(\$51,990), which reveals that even with this low of an average income they are not in the top five of zip codes in the city. These drastic differences reveal that many in Baton Rouge have a less economic security that the average citizens in America.

The data shows that economic security seems related to location within Baton Rouge. The majority of zip codes found in North Baton Rouge are at a deficit in one or more of the economic categories, while the majority of South Baton Rouge is economically stable. The economic data also revealed that the zip codes found on the western edge of Baton Rouge are doing much worse economically than areas found on the eastern edge of the city.

Statistical Economic-Crime Link Results

The entirety of the comparisons between economics and crime ratings of each zip code reveal a strong pattern of connection. The higher a zip codes economic ratings the lower their crime ratings were and vice versa. This can be reviewed following almost all zip codes studied. It was also seen that the zip codes that are in the middle of the crime ratings are found in the middle of most of all economic statistics.

There are 5 zip codes that are in the top of both the property crime and violent crime rankings in the city. These zip codes are 70805, 70807, 70806, 70802, and 70820, which are also located on the western of edge of the city. Comparing these 5 zip codes crime rates with their four economic categories provides a strong stance for the link between crime and economics.

70805 and 70802 are in the top four worst zip codes in every statistic shown including the crime rates and economic rates. Every one of the zip codes in the top 5 of both crime rating, are within the top five worst zip codes of at least one economic category. If you only focus on the top three most violent zip codes 70805, 70802, and 70807; they are all within the worst 5 zip codes for every economic category reviewed. In fact every zip code that is found in the top five worse of any economic category has a property crime and violent crime rating above the national

average. 70812 shows this connection as well, it is found ranked in the top 6 worst zip codes economically in every category, and is the 6th most violent zip code found in the study.

For crime and poverty to be truly linked statistically than those with higher wealth and employment will have less crime. The only two zip codes with averages that were better than the US averages for both categories of crime were 70817 and 70818. These two zip codes also had better economic statistics, than the national average in every single economic category studied. They are statistically doing the better than most places in American economically and criminally.

Three other zip codes that were consistently doing better than the national average in all the statistical data reviewed were 70810, 70808, and 70819. The 70810 zip code was in the top four zip codes with the least amount violent crime and property crime per population in the city.

When comparing the zip codes crime rates and economics, it is revealed that most zip codes rankings are similar. For example 70815 is the 10th ranked zip code for areas with the highest individual poverty rate, and they are the 9th ranked zip code for areas with the highest violent crime rankings. While the ranking of zip codes is arbitrary, it reveals that the economic standings and crime standings in Baton Rouge are fluctuating together. This is similar in most zip codes except for 70803 and 70810, which do not fit this pattern at all. These two zip codes have high levels of individual's poverty with very low levels of violent crime. Most of the statistical evidence points to the inverse proportionality of crime and economics. The lower the economic situation and status of a zip code the higher the levels of crime. This pattern reveals a possible connection between the crime and economics in Baton Rouge that requires more analysis to understand. While the majority of zip codes fit this pattern, some of them did not.

Statistics on Economic-Crime Disassociations

While there has been plenty of data that connects the crime and economic statistics, there are certain statistics that do not connect in the same way.

The zip code of 70803, where LSU campus is located, had some of the lowest economic statistics within Baton Rouge. If the crime and economics are linked, then 70803 would be expected to be one of the most crime affiliated areas. However, 70803 had the third lowest violence rate and was around the middle of the pack for property crime per population. This statistically shows a different pattern between the economics and crime in this area of town. Unlike the other zip codes the low levels of economic stability did not result in high levels of crime. This is not the only zip code that revealed a disconnection between their economics and crime rates.

70811, a majority black area found in North Baton Rouge, revealed that their economics statistics were not as impactful on their property crime as other economics. 70811 has the fourth highest unemployment rate in the city an 10.6% , the 6th highest families below the poverty line, and an average income of just of \$50,000. However, they are in the top five area codes with the lowest property crime at 42 out of 100. This is not to say that they have a low level of property crime, their rating is still above the national average, but it is lower than other zip-codes with better economics in the city.

70809, a majority white area located in South Baton Rouge, had a similar disconnect from economics and crime. 70809 was in the top tier of zip codes in the city with good economics, their statistics are above the national average for all four economic categories reviewed. However their property crimes per population was ten points higher than the national

average. While this is still not in the top 5 worst zip codes in the city, it does question the crime and economic link.

70819, a slightly white majority area found mostly in North Baton Rouge, had the second smallest population at around 5,000 and also showed a few intriguing results. Economically it is better than the US average in every category except mean income per household, falling around \$20,000 short. Its good economics may be reflected in a property crime rating that was the third lowest in the city. However, its violence crime rating is 15 points over the national average. While the research could be reflecting an economic-crime link between the mean income per household and violence ratings, it also could also be revealing the disassociation of crime and economics. Further research would be needed to understand the outliers of this zip codes situation

70820, found on the south western corner of the city, also showed some disconnects from their economic statistics and crime statistics. Economically they were worse than the national average of every statistic except for unemployment rate. However, even with a good unemployment rate they are still in the top 5 of both crime rankings in the city, with both their property crime and violent crime ratings being more than 20 points higher than the national average. While these zip codes showed disconnections between their crime rates and economic rates, the majority of the data revealed an economic crime link in Baton Rouge. In order to understand the dynamics that are occurring, the next section reviews the interviewee's perspectives on crime.

Interviewees' Perspectives on Crimes

The statistical results revealed a possible pattern in the city with economics and crime. However, looking at only numbers does not help to understand the intricacies of why this is occurring. The interviews allowed for an insight into how the crime and economics function in the city, and allows for an insight into how they function together.

The first question posed was “What is at the heart of the high crime rates in the area?” Each of the interviews revealed a different view on what was at the heart of the crime rates. Together the four respondents identified a multitude of factors causing the high crime rates in the city of Baton Rouge. The numbers (#) next to each factor represent the total number of interviewees who provided the specific answer shown. These factors include low income/poverty (4), education (4), social environment (4), societal constructs (4), employment (3), drugs/addiction (3), mental health (3), marginalization/racism (2), domestic violence (1), and the policing/regulating of laws (1).

Respondent A identified education and mental health as the two most important aspects causing the high crime rates in the city. Respondent B identified social environment, social structure, and mental health as the leading factors causing the high levels of crime in the city. Respondent C identified the societal constructs, such as the lack of economic and public resources, as the most important factors causing the high crime rates. Respondent D identified the social environment and social structure as the leading factor causing the high crime rates.

Looking at all of the interviews there are two main sources causing the high crime rates in the city. The main influential factor of the crime rates are the societal influential factors, which are presented to individuals during their life time. These are any factors of cultural upbringing that surround a child as they move into adulthood. The social structures are the normal rules and regulations set forth by the family, peers, and neighborhood of an individuals. Each person will

have different cultural rules, and these rules are not always in line with keeping the law. Some example of social structure includes the importance of education in the household, the activities that are considered common practice in the neighborhoods, and the type of communication and validation that is presented to an individual.

All interviewees explain in detail the importance of the social environment presented to individuals especially children. Respondent D explains how the lack of emotional education found in an individual's environment can lead to violent acts. Respondent D (2018) said "domestic violence can come from not knowing how to communicate; instead of expressing yourself ... you literally go from one place to rage". The person is explaining that some individuals never learn how to communicate effectively, and instead use anger to express themselves in all emotional situations. This example explains the importance that the social environment of individuals has on the alleviation of crime. According to this interviewee, if someone is taught the emotional language necessary for expressing frustration, then a physical assault of rage is less likely to occur.

The second factor that every respondent found important and discussed in some depth was the current public structures within the areas of crime. The public structures are the structures and organization set forth by economics and government implementation. Economic structures would include the locations of grocery stores, businesses for work, and health care facilities. Government implementations would include public schools, public parks, public transportation, health care coverage, public transportation, and police protection. Edelman (2013) explained that poor have lost their safety net, because of lacking public systems.

Respondent C explains why the police protection is actually negatively impacting the higher crime rates in the areas, instead of helping it. The Respondent explained that "the police

are more visible (in areas of high crime) even just a ride around, it becomes mentally draining, they make rounds at least twice an hour. They are always attempting to deter crime”. The respondent goes on to explain that everyone makes mistakes, but in areas where cops are constantly patrolling the crime rates will be higher.

Respondent C also focuses on the poor public transit system that leave many of those in the areas with limited ability to travel. This would be an extreme problem for certain areas, which respondent D explained “are food deserts that have no grocery stores”. Respondent D explained how certain places do not have a grocery store anywhere near them. The inability to access food easily is a basic human need, and this neglect in Baton Rouge is apparent according to the interviews.

These lacking public structures that are currently located in the areas of crime are also explained by Respondent B. They explained that many in highly violent areas deal with trauma, and have mental health issues that are not tended to. They focused on the lack of mental health facilities or the ability to access those facilities in the areas of high crime. These are just a few of the lacking public structures that are occurring in areas of high crime rates. According to the four respondents; the lack of both the social structures and the public structures found in the areas were at the heart of what is causing the high crime rates.

The second question posed was: What locations are most impacted by crime? The locations identified as the areas most impacted by crime were the zip codes of 70805, 70807, 70806, and 70802. These four zip codes were stated as the areas with most crime and poverty by the respondents. The crime locations were also explained in different fashions. Respondent B and Respondent C both explained that crime is everywhere in the city, but the crime reported is different and more frequent in certain areas. Respondent C explained “Crime is everywhere in

the city but different crime impacts different areas based on income, upper class and middle class deal with mostly burglary (property crime), while lower class deal with drugs, burglary, and violent crimes”. Respondent D also comments that “The area where the crime is highest in the city are also the poorest in the city”.

The interviews revealed that the crime in the city is coming from the social and public structures located in the areas of crime. The systems provided for the individuals in the locations of 70802, 70802, 70806, 70807, and other zip codes struggling with crime are not conducive to a safe environment. The next two questions focused on the economics found in the city.

Interviewees’ Perspectives on Economic Issues

In order to understand the factors of crime and economics independently, the next set of questions focused only on economics. The question asked was: What are the root problems causing our high poverty rates? The interview responses revealed a multitude of factors impacting the poverty rates in the city. The factors included were public education, parental education, business education, legally profitable skills, public structures, economic investments, a lack of community resources, a lack of access to mental health facilities, high levels of single parent households, health care cost, socio-economic divide, and a lack of economic opportunity. According to the interviews the two main problems causing the high poverty rates within Baton Rouge were education and access to community resources.

Every single respondent explained the poor education system in the city as a cause for the high levels of poverty. Respondent A focused on the lack of educational passing from parents to children. They explained how the lack of education of the parent, limits the child’s ability to learn the information necessary for public school. Respondent A continued to explain how the current public system is not doing an adequate job, helping those without preschool education

catch up to the rest of the class. The interviewee explained how this creates a snowball effect of kids being sent to the next grade without ever possessing the adequate information, which leads to high levels of drop outs.

Respondent C agreed with this sentiment when they stated “The School system is failing the youth in certain areas of the city, they are not getting the best education, with the current system”. The education system that both interviewees were referring to was the public schooling in Baton Rouge. This is another example of the structural problems within the city. Education was the main point of every individual interviewed, and the lack of community resources was the second most important factor causing poverty in the city.

Respondent D explains how the access to good and affordable health care is a community resource that continues to cause poverty. Respondent D discussed a poverty simulation their organization ran for Baton Rouge. In the simulation they were examining what economics was like for those in poverty. Respondent D explained a situation they were given:

imagine you have a dual income household, but they can't get government assistance because they are not together. They are not making as much, but they have children and if there child gets sick, then they have to pay for medical care. They are literally surviving pay check to pay check, just to pay medical bills.

This lack of community resources causes out of pocket fees that cripple people who are already struggling. The respondent is expressing the pressures and difficulties of maintaining economic stability while living in poverty. Shortell (2005) articulates that power “is the ability to command resources in a particular domain” (p.2). Those without economic wealth are limited in their economic power, and have to access whatever is available to them. The economic resources that

are available will dictate the economic power that the individuals have. In Baton Rouge that can be varied dependent on where economic investments are located.

Respondent B explained how the lack of economic investments in the areas of poverty has left them without certain community facilities that could be considered a necessity. They explained how the lack of access to mental health facilities has left those in poverty with no way pay for treatment or get healthy. The lack of community resources have crippled the people's ability to overcome poverty in the city. The four respondents explained our high poverty rates in a generational fashion. Those born into poverty will remain poor. Respondent C summarized the findings perfectly when they said the "Education and a lack of opportunities create a cycle of poverty". The interviewees revealed a plethora of problems in the economics of the poverty stricken areas. The lack of economic investments, education, advantageous public systems, and economic control in these areas are negatively impacting the individuals living there.

The second question posed was: What areas in the city are most impacted by poverty, and how are they impacted? The interviewees listed the zip codes of 70802, 70805, 70806, 70807, and 70811. Respondents also alluded to other general pockets of poverty. The respondents explained that the Scotlandville and Glenn oaks areas were experiencing blight at a high level. Scotlandville is a prominent black community that hosts Southern University within the zip code of 70807. Glenn Oaks is another prominent black community that is only recently experiencing such high levels of blight and poverty. Glenn oaks is an area found within the 70811 zip codes.

Respondent C referenced all of North Baton Rouge as the area experiencing the majority of the poverty in Baton Rouge. This was difficult to map out and quantify, because North Baton Rouge is considered any zip codes on the North of Florida Boulevard. The zip codes that are

considered within North Baton Rouge are 70805, 70806, 70807, 70811, 70812, 70814, most of 70819, parts of 70802, and parts of 70815. This is because North Baton Rouge is it is considered anything north of Florida Boulevard, and South Baton Rouge is anything south of Florida Boulevard. This means some zip codes are divided by Florida making part of their zip code in North Baton Rouge and other parts in South Baton Rouge. Review map 2.

The areas that were impacted by poverty and economic problems are some of the same locations that were discussed as having issues with crime. In the next couple of question, the respondents touch on the economics and crime in the city.

Interviewees' Perspectives on the Crime-Economic Link

After accessing economics and crime independently, the next two questions focused on their relationship together. The first question under this category posed was: Are the crime and economics linked? Every single interviewee agreed that economics and crime are linked in Baton Rouge. Respondent B explained that those with economic privileges have less reason to participate in crime, and that those placed into the stressful environment of survival will have a different standard of rules for life. Respondent B's perspective is consistent with Weber's theory of social class, because that those with wealth in the city have more control over their lifestyle choices (Shortell, 2005, p.5).

Respondent C exclaimed "definitely" to the question of whether there was an economic crime link and went on to explain it as:

those in poverty will have less healthy food from welfare and worse medical care.

Daycares that accept Medicare are babysitting facilities not preschool. Teaching doesn't happen there, no one has a degree in childhood development for the children. Your child

is an empty vessel. Those in poverty do not get the best and as a result they have to work a little bit harder to just be average, they were always given less and they just want to be average.

The respondent is explaining how those born in poverty have a hard time getting out of it, because of the systematic limitations of the poor.

Respondent D answered the questions regarding the economic-crime link in the city as follows:

Yes in terms of where economic investments take place, an area for examples with food desserts, bringing up health care, where hospitals are or access to health care is. They have out skirted the city parish and when you look at areas that are thriving and not in poverty and then you look at those in poverty, there's a very distinct difference in economic level in those areas

The respondent is addressing that those in poverty are also the same people who are dealing with high levels of crime. They are also addressing the impact that the lack of economic opportunities and commodities facilitated in these areas are having on the public.

The second question in this category posed was: What areas in the city are impacted by both the poverty and by crime, and how is that impact seen? All interviewees simply referred to their previous statements of the areas that were stated in both the locations of poverty and crime. Using the locations that were found in both reveal that the respondents believe 70805, 70807, 70802, and 70806 are the locations in Baton Rouge that are struggling the most with both poverty and crime.

Interviewees' Perspectives on Economic-Crime Disassociations

There were no questions posed for this information, instead data was collected from the respondents answers of the other questions. The disassociations were found by looking at the information that appeared only in the crime of the city or the poverty of the city, but not both. While the four interviewees believe that the economic-crime link in the city is very real, their responses show a certain level of independence between the two variables. Almost every link discussed, connected the crime and economics together through some system. For example, Respondent A explained how low economic investments into public school leads to higher dropout rates and higher crime rates. This is not connecting the economics of the individual community members and the high crime rates. Instead, it is connecting the economic investments of the school. The investments of the state into the public school system are not overcome by individuals paying money directly to their teachers. There is a slight disconnect of how money can impact education.

Another example was the lack of access to mental health facilities that these same locations do not have. Respondent B explained how the lack of public funding into mental health facilities, the limited access to them, and the price of them are making it difficult for those in poverty to seek the care they need. They explained that mental health care could help people avoid crime and violence. The interviewee was explaining that the systems and organizations make it difficult for the poorer in the city to acquire their essentials like mental health care. Since a useful public system is not available, a lack of money is causing neglect to personal need. If there was an affective public system available, then the crime rate caused by mental health would be less impacted by economics.

Respondent B also acknowledged that those in economically stable situations are also not accessing mental health care due to stigmas. However, they explained that those with financial

stability are less likely to report violence because of that economic security. This insight shows a darker side of the economic-crime link. This means that crime is not directly or only occurring because of low economics, instead it is occurring due to the insufficient degree of needs satisfaction. A focus on need satisfaction may explain the high levels of crime in the city better than the economic levels, more research would be needed to assess this.

The interviews also revealed that that money can afford private structure that could be used to satisfy needs. Respondent B explained that there is less reason to steal when you can afford the items you need. Poverty itself is not the cause of such difficulties in the city, the public and social structures force those in poverty into more desperate situations. The concept is that the public and social structures currently in place are not fulfilling the needs of its citizens.

The disassociations of crime and economics in the city are based around the structure available for citizens. The respondent all referenced a strong economic-crime link in the city. However, each link was explained through some system. Their responses revealed that it is not the individual's economic situation that results directly into crime, but instead it is the lack of accessibility that is causing higher crime. Their answers disclose that the systems and structures of people in poverty lead to higher crime. While this is a subtle difference from a direct link of crime economics, it shows a possibility that the two categories can be without association.

The information from the interviews gave a strong insight into the inner working of the crime and economics in Baton Rouge. The respondents explained that the social and public structures provided in areas of poverty are limiting the ability of individuals to avoid crime. The interviews also showed a strong belief that the economics and crime in the city are closely related. Their answers helped to explain the meaning of some of the statistical results reviewed

earlier. In the next section, the interview results will be used to contextualize and explain the results of the statistics.

Combined Results

Using the results of the interviews and statistics, this section will analyze and contextualize the economics and crime in Baton Rouge. The four categories that were chosen will be interwoven into this section to get a clear and concise conclusion of all results.

The research question was: Whether the crime and economics in Baton Rouge were linked. The interviews and statistical data revealed that there was strong link between the crime and economics in Baton Rouge. The zip codes with the highest levels of crime have the worst economics, and the zip codes with the best economics have the lowest level of crime. This was even seen in the type of crime found throughout the city. Respondent C explained that crime is found everywhere in the city, but different types of crime are more prevalent based on economic standing, and violence is seen more in the areas of extreme poverty. Statistical data confirmed that the areas with the highest violent crime ratings were also the areas with the most economic instability. According to the interviews, the areas with high levels of crime and violence are 70802, 70805, 70806, and 70807. The statistical data matches the interviews; the four zip codes mentioned are statistically some of the worst in the city for both crime rates and economic rates. The statistical data also matched with the references of the good economics and the low crime found in the 70817 zip code. The two sets of data also revealed that the majority of North Baton Rouge is home to higher crime rates and lower economic status, than that of zip codes found in South Baton Rouge

The interviews helped to contextualize reasons for the economic-crime link in the city. They revealed that the public and social structures provided for those located in areas of high poverty and crime do not sufficiently to satisfy the needs of their residents. These structural deficits explain the connection of crime and economics in the city.

The interviews also explained that the structural inadequacies could be overcome through paid services. This was discussed when evaluating the public and private systems that are located in the high crime and poverty areas. Respondent D explained that Woodlawn a public high school located in 70817, is one of the better schools in the city. The interviewee is explaining that 70817 has public structures that are better than the ones seen in areas of town with high levels of crime. The different systems found throughout the city were discussed in detail in every interview.

Another example was when Respondent D reviewed locations where there is not grocery store. The lack of economic investments in the areas forces the people to satisfy their need for groceries elsewhere. The extra time and/or cost of going somewhere else to get groceries further exasperates the economic hardships in that area. Respondents D's argument is that the investors have abandoned these highly impacted zip codes aforementioned. While the majority of findings support an economic-crime link in the city, there were definitely some anomalies in the data.

According to the interview data, it seems that there are chances for economics and crime not to be linked with each other in the city. While the vast majority of zip codes follow the same economic-crime pattern, there were a few zip codes that statistically did not. A hypothesis derived from the findings in this study is: If the social and public structures that are available to individuals of any economic situation were able to satisfy the needs causing the crime rates, then

the economic-crime link would be severed. The main zip code that broke this pattern was 70803. 70803 stood out as a zip code plagued by economic problems, but it was also one of lowest crime rated zip codes in the area.

Under further investigation, 70803 is located on and around Louisiana State University campus, with 49% of its housing being used to occupy students (“Zip Code 70803,” 2018). The vast majority of the population in this area code are working part time jobs and going to school, with only 2% of the populations working full time (“Zip Code 70803,” 2018). This may indicate that most residents of the area are enrolled at LSU, which has its own independent structures to aid students. These independent structures include financial aid, access to health care plans, mental health counselors, career advice, social groups, free social activities, and food plans (“Louisiana State University: Student Services,” 2018). These structures may combat many of the core issues that the interviewees identified as problems found in poverty stricken areas that could lead to crime. The LSU services are meant to satisfy the needs of its students. BHN theory articulates that the satisfaction of a human’s basic needs will thwart any reason to become aggressive (Arai, 2016, p.51) If the economic-crime link in the city is based on the lack of satisfied needs, then the use of LSU’s services could mitigate that link. This would explain why 70803’s economic rates and crime rates would be independent of each other. However, this is only a hypothesis and cannot be proven by the crime data or the interviews of this study.

The other zip codes that showed intriguing results included 70811 and 70819. These zip codes followed the economic-crime link pattern in at least one of the economic categories and the crime ratings. However, 70811 shows higher economic disparity then levels of crime when compared to other zip codes, it was also identified the same by the interviewees. Only 1 respondent alluded to a possible reason, Respondent D explained that the 70811 area (Glenn

Oaks) is currently experiencing a lot of more blight and poverty issues. She is alluding to the fact that it was not always struggling as much with poverty. My theory from this is that the social and public structures found in the 70811 area are still more closely related to a time where poverty was not as prevalent. Many of the social and public structures are satisfying more of the needs that cause higher levels of crime. If this is true, then over time with continued economic neglect the structures will change and become more conducive to crime. Once again, this hypothesis could not be proven by this study.

70819 is another zip code that does not completely match the crime-economic link. 70819's economic rates are very good compared to the national average and the other zip codes in the city. However, its violence rates do not match that trend. Only their mean income per household was worse than the national average, granted it is \$ 20,000 less. Upon further investigation 70819 is located on the North and South Baton Rouge divide. Respondent C articulated the differences in economics and violence between the communities found in both areas. The respondent explained that North Baton Rouge is struggling with economic support, poverty, and crime; while south Baton Rouge is economically vibrant, wealthier, and safer. This could mean that there is a huge divide economically within 70819. It also could mean that the high levels of violence are coming from a strong pocket located in the North portion of that zip code. If this is true, it would allude to a divide visible within one zip code. Allen and Gallo (2016) explain that the lack of economic investments in area north of Florida Boulevard are much worse than the southern counter parts. The theories developed from this section would need further investigation to confirm. However, they did reveal a possible disconnect from the economics and crime in the city. The next section will summarize and conclude the research.

Conclusion

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the evidence points to a strong connection between economics and crime. The statistical data revealed an overwhelming trend that the zip codes with highest economic standing had the lowest crime ratings. This was true inversely as well, the worse a zip codes economic standing the higher their crime rating. The interviews revealed the same understanding and helped to illuminate how the economic-crime link functions in Baton Rouge. The social and systematic structures found in Baton Rouge are based strongly on the locations they are found. The social and public structures found in poverty-stricken areas are more conducive to crime. Many of the public and economic structures that are available in areas of poverty-stricken zip codes do not sufficiently meet the needs of the public living there. Baton Rouge's situation supports the validity of the basic human needs theory.

The interviewees identified multiple needs being neglected in Baton Rouge, which included insufficient health care, difficulty obtaining healthy food, mental health facilities, economic opportunities, educational opportunities, and safety. The interviews also identified the social structures, economic structures, public structures, and legal structures as the main causes that linked the economics and crime.

Allen & Gallo (2016) explained that there are more prominent economic structures and opportunities found in the areas of Baton Rouge where the crime rates are low. The research would theorize that the crime rates are connected to these economic opportunities. These economic opportunities allow for easier access to economic stability. Those without economic stability will have to rely mainly on the public systems in Baton Rouge.

The public systems in Baton Rouge are very similar to Edelman's (2012) explanation of poverty in America. He explained that the public systems in America do not always allow for

individuals and families to ever leave poverty (Edelman, 2012, pp.3-5). Respondent C's articulation of the public education system failing children is a perfect example. This was true not only for the city's education, but also for their other public systems like welfare. Respondent C went into detail of how the food and child care received from welfare are not near enough for a healthy life. This combined with the lack of economic opportunities have left generations stuck in poverty.

Respondent A and Respondent D explained that the social structures found in areas of generational poverty are very conducive to crime. They both explained that children grow up seeing crime and violence as common place, and think this is the life they will live as well. Respondent C articulated that the kids feel that they are looked at as criminals in areas with high levels of police involvement. Respondent C explained that this psychological pressure is not healthy or conducive to police and community relations, which can cause more crime. According to the interviewees, these types' social structures and many more create a structure that leads to higher level of crime in areas of poverty.

The areas in Baton Rouge with high levels poverty have high levels of crime, and the areas in Baton Rouge with low levels of poverty have low levels of crime. While the statistical and qualitative evidence is indicative of these trends, they do not reveal an absolute truth. Certain outliers within these findings show the lack of accuracy within the trend. They also reveal some possibilities to overcome the crime in the area. The outliers revealed a possibility that the economics and crime are not directly linked, but instead are closely connected through the different structures that are available in the areas. The outliers could propose that those with economic stability have a strong advantage in fulfilling their needs through private systems, and those without economic stability have to use the public systems that are accessible. This theory

would dictate that alleviating the high levels of crime and poverty in certain areas, would begin with increasing the capacities and access to public structures. However, more research is required to confirm this hypothesis.

Is there an economic-crime link in the city? The data suggests the plausibility of an economic-crime link in Baton Rouge. It also concluded that while there appears to be a link, the poverty and crime in the city are not always reliant on one another. The study revealed new questions to establish how to overcome the high crime rates in the city. Further investigation into the effectiveness of the public, private, and social structures found in Baton Rouge is needed to discover how to provide individuals with the essentials necessary to avoid crime and poverty.

Appendix A: Participant Informed Consent Form

Title of the Study: The Violence in Baton Rouge

Researchers' names: Christopher Bailey

I would like to invite you to participate in a voluntary interview for research necessary to complete my Master's degree at SIT Graduate Institute. Before you decide to participate you should know that this is voluntary, and all information shared will be done anonymously. Please read the following information before you decide to participate and ask questions about anything you do not understand. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to sign this form and you will be given a copy of this form.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to explore the possible economic-crime link found in the city of Baton Rouge. The research is looking to answer the question of, Is there a link between the economics and crime in the city Baton Rouge?

STUDY PROCEDURES

We shall have a semi-structured interview, where I will ask you questions about your community's economics and crime. It will be audio recorded and used in my research. The interview will take place at a location of your choosing. The participants will be able to participate, if they do not wish to be audio-recorded.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS

The interviews are about the problems in the city and they will ask you to reveal your own perspectives. Under no circumstance do you have to disclose any information that makes you feel uncomfortable. If at any time you feel uncomfortable answering a question, simply raise your hand, and I will move on. Before, during, or after the interview you have the right to end your participation and all information will be deleted.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS AND/OR TO SOCIETY

While it is my hope that participants will derive a sense of ownership and accomplishment for contributing to research aimed at understanding their community, no immediate benefits to participants exist.

PAYMENT/COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPATION

There is no compensation for participation in this study.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All confidential information collected will be limited to the researcher and their advisor who will need the information for authenticity. I will maintain confidentiality by securing all personal information electronically under password protection. After the study is finished, all personal information will be deleted including all audio recordings. Under no time during the research will a person's name or any other identifying information be presented unless previously signed off on.

PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

Your participation is voluntary. Your refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study.

Consent to Audio-Record Interview

Initial one of the following to indicate your choice:

_____ (initial) I agree to being recorded for the interview and for excerpts of this recording to be used in the publication of this research.

_____ (initial) I do not agree to being recorded for the interview.

Consent to use organizational name

Initial one of the following to indicate your choice:

_____ (initial) I agree to allow the name of my organization to be used in this publication or presentation of this study.

_____ (initial) I do not agree to allow the name of my organization to be used in the publication or presentation of this study.

“I have read the above and I understand its contents and I agree to participate in the study. I acknowledge that I am 18 years of age or older.”

Participant's signature _____ Date _____

Researcher's signature _____ Date _____

RESEARCHER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Researcher: Christopher Bailey: cmbail34@gmail.com

Research Advisor: Dr. Tatsushi Arai: tatsushi.arai@sit.edu

RIGHTS OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANT – IRB CONTACT INFORMATION

In an endeavor to uphold the ethical standards of all SIT proposals, this study has been reviewed and approved by an SIT Study Abroad Local Review Board or SIT Institutional Review Board. If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about your rights as a research participant or the research in general and are unable to contact the researcher please contact the Institutional Review Board at:

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Student name: Christopher Bailey Date: 4/20/2018